

REMARKS

As a result of the amendment, claims 1 and 27-38 are in the case. Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims do not contain new matter.

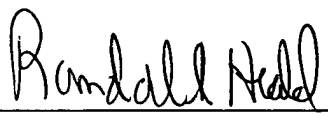
Claims 27-38 are new claims. The basis for claims 27-32 is found on page 8, lines 4-5. The basis for claims 33-38 is found on page 8, line 15 through page 9, line 6, which clearly shows that the zero-valent metal particles are *reactants* that degrade halogenated solvents. Since these claims have a new scope that has not been previously examined, a First Office Action Final Rejection would not be warranted.

In order to expedite the prosecution of these claims, Applicant asserts that claims 27-38 are novel and unobvious in view of the references cited by the Examiner in the parent application, Application No. 09/972,296. In the Office Action dated August 7, 2003 in Application No. 09/972,296, the Examiner states that Applicant fails to recite that the metal is emulsified with the surfactant, oil, and water. Claims 27-38 clearly state that the zero-valent metal particles are part of the emulsion. The zero-valent metal particles are contained within the emulsion microdroplets. Conversely, the Chang reference (U.S. Patent 5,990,365) is directed to the use of an emulsion to treat a metal-containing catalyst system. Although the Chang reference discloses an emulsion, it does not disclose the addition of zero-valent metal particles emulsified with the surfactant, oil and water. In addition, claims 33-38 recite that the zero-valent metal particles are *reactants* within the emulsion. The Kizling reference (PCT WO 97/09114) describes a method and use of a catalyst system for the combustion of fuels. Nobel metals are plated onto a carrier using the emulsion. The emulsion is then broken down by heat, which

bonds the metal catalyst particles to the monolith. The Kizling reference is clearly directed toward the production of a catalyst system. Conversely, the present application and claims are directed toward a *reactive* system. Applicant's reactive system uses an emulsion including metal particles as part of a reactive redox system and these particles are consumed in a dehalogenation reaction. In contrast, the Kizling reference uses the emulsion only to "plate out" a catalyst onto a support structure. None of the references cited by the Examiner in the parent application disclose or suggest an emulsion system including metal particles that are used as reactants. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art and that the claims should now be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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